

Resolution No. _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Councilmembers Nancy Floreen, Phil Andrews, Mike Knapp, George
Leventhal,

SUBJECT: Creation of the SAFE [Sidewalks Are For Everyone] Golden Shovel
Program

Background

1. In April 2001, the Montgomery County Council passed legislation to require people to remove snow and ice from public walkways and parking areas on and adjacent to their property within 24 hours after a snowfall.
2. This was intended to ensure that during inclement weather conditions our pedestrians could experience the same safe conditions on County sidewalks that we demand on County roadways
3. Common courtesy and common sense require safe passageways for all walkers, workers, and transit users.
4. As a community, we have a special obligation to protect the disabled, the elderly, families pushing strollers, and schoolchildren who need to reach their destinations without fear of falling on ice, climbing through snow banks, or walking in the street because of snow-clogged sidewalks.
5. There are over 40,000 students who are not eligible for school bus transportation and are expected to walk to school daily. They need clear sidewalks. Many of the school bus stops for the 95,000 bus riding students are at intersections with sidewalks. These children are often forced to wait in the street when sidewalks are blocked with ice and snow.
6. Montgomery County is working to develop and enhance livable, walkable neighborhoods and communities. We are encouraging walking and biking as alternatives to driving. Clear sidewalks allow and promote walking and biking and livable neighborhoods. Far too often, people shovel their driveways so they can drive but ignore their sidewalks.
7. The Montgomery County Council recognizes that public awareness and understanding of the benefits of its clear sidewalks legislation can be enhanced by Council encouragement.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

The Montgomery County Council establishes the SAFE Golden Shovel Award Program. [SAFE –Sidewalks Are For Everyone].

The objectives of the program are to recognize and reward individuals whose willingness as generous and good neighbors to do outstanding snow shoveling has benefited others; to bring attention to the County legislation requiring the shoveling of sidewalks within 24 hours of a snow storm; to promote neighborliness by encouraging people to help others who can not shovel their sidewalks, and to highlight the safety problems people face when these areas are not shoveled.

Nomination forms to acknowledge these special individuals are due to the County Council by March 15th. The Golden Shovel Award will be announced by March 30th.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Mary A. Edgar, CMC, Secretary of the Council

Date

The Safe Sidewalks/Golden Shovel Award Program

Objective:

To recognize and reward individuals whose generous snow shoveling efforts have benefited others; to bring attention to the County legislation requiring shoveling within 24 hours of a snow storm; to encourage people to take the need to shovel seriously, and to highlight the safety problems people face when areas aren't shoveled.

Plan:

To award the Safe Sidewalks/Golden Shovel Award

SAFE –Sidewalks Are For Everyone

Nominations due by March 15th

Award to be presented by March 30th.

Nominations would come in to the County Council, and a staff committee would read and recommend 5 - 10 names for the Council approval.

The awards would be presented at a Tuesday Council Meeting, and a printed certificate and gift would be presented.

Program initiation would be announced with media and outreach.

A press release and outreach package would be prepared. Media would be asked to assist in getting out the word. Media might donate an ad as a public service and have the nomination form in the paper. Information and the nomination form would also be on the